



INFORMATION FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY AND THE PUBLIC
FROM THE
D.C. BOARD OF MEDICINE

March 2006

BOARD UPDATES REGULATIONS

Continuing a regulatory update effort that was begun last year, the D.C. Board of Medicine (the “Board”) has updated the medical regulations regarding continuing medical education and pain management.

Continuing Medical Education

Prior to finalization of the new continuing medical education (CME) regulations, only non-practicing physicians were required to routinely complete CME as a condition for license renewal. The new regulations require practicing physicians to complete CME as a condition of renewal. The new regulations require practicing physicians to complete fifty hours of AMA/PRA (or AOA) Category I hours during the two-year period preceding the license expiration date. The Board will accept up to fifty percent of the required CME from on-line courses.

Current D.C. medical licenses expire on December 31, 2006. Since the regulations were enacted approximately in the middle of the renewal cycle, only twenty-five hours will be required to renew D.C. medical licenses in December 2006. Subsequent renewals will require the full fifty hours.

The renewal form will require renewing licensees to attest that they have completed the required CME. A random sample of licensees will be selected for audit. If you are selected for audit, you will be required to produce documentation of completion of the required CME, so it is important that you retain documentation of the CME that you completed.

Failure to comply with the CME requirements can subject a licensee to disciplinary action. Physicians who are applying for an initial D.C. medical license are not required to complete CME, nor are physicians who are enrolled in postgraduate training programs. Physicians who renew after being issued a first license by examination are also exempt from the CME requirement.

Other physicians may request exemption from the Board due to hardship, disability, serious illness, or service in the U.S. Congress or the armed forces. If you require an exemption for any of these reasons, you must apply to the Board in writing in sufficient time for the Board to consider your request.

Pain Management

Pain management has been a prominent medical regulatory issue on a national basis. Most researchers have opined that physicians routinely medicate less than required for severe pain. In view of the national discussions, the Board, in consultation with Michelle Ervin, M.D. of the D.C. Pain Initiative, updated the medical regulations to establish guidelines for pain management by physicians who are licensed to practice in the District of Columbia. The regulations are aimed at eliminating “inappropriately treated pain,” that is defined in the regulations as non-treatment, under treatment, over treatment and the continued use of ineffective treatments. The full pain regulations as well as the CME regulations can be viewed at the website www.dchealth.dc.gov. Once you get to that site click on “Professional Licensing,”

then “Professional Licensing Regulations” and then “Medicine.”

ARE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECORD CURRENT?

Renewal information will be mailed later this year. If your address of record with the Board is not current, you will not receive the renewal information. Moreover the regulations require that you notify the Board within thirty days of an address change. Instructions for changing your name or address are posted on the website and shown below.

All name and address changes must come in writing to our office. Please include your name, address, social security number, and license or certificate number (if you know it). If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change. You must send this information within 30 days of your change of name or address. Failure to do so may result in a \$100 fine per section 16A DCMR § 3201.1 (d).

There is no fee to record your name or address change if you do not want a revised copy of your license. To receive a new license or certificate reflecting the change, send your request in writing along with a \$26.00 duplicate licensee fee. Make your check or money order payable to “Promissor.” Do not send cash.

Please mail your name or address change request to:

**Department of Health
Health Professional Licensing Administration
ATTN: Processing Department –
Address/Name Change
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington DC, 20005**

Or fax the request to:

(202) 727-8471

Note: If you want a new license printed, you must mail in your request along with the required check or money order.

2006 BOARD ORDERS

Through February

Probation, Reprimanded, Remediation

Dworsky, Lynn S. (2/27/06) The physician’s D.C. medical license was placed on probation for one year *nunc pro tunc* to June 7, 2005 or until released from probation by the Maryland Board of Physicians. The physician was reprimanded, required to undergo peer review, and complete a medical recordkeeping course as a result of disciplinary action in Maryland related to quality of care.

Pishdad, Bahram (2/27/06) The physician’s D.C. medical license was placed on three years probation *nunc pro tunc* to June 22, 2005 or until released from probation by the

Maryland Board of Physicians. The physician was reprimanded, required to undergo peer review after twelve and twenty-four months, and required to complete a course in anticoagulation therapy as a result of disciplinary action in Maryland related to quality of care.

Probation Terminated

Eisenbrey, Jean M. (2/10/06) Probation terminated. The physician satisfied the terms of her probation.

Filing A Complaint

To file a complaint against a licensed DC physician, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have. The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings. You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Medicine
Suite 600
717 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

You can also fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 727-8471. If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity, you should address your complaint to:

Supervisory Investigator
Suite 1000
717 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

You can also fax your complaint about unlicensed activity to (202) 727-8471.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.

The D.C. Board of Medicine

The current members of the Board are:

Frederick C. Finelli, M.D., J.D. Physician Member and Chairperson;

Gregg Pane, M.D., Statutory Member;

John J. Lynch, M.D., Physician Member;

Lawrence A. Manning, M.D., Physician Member;

Peter G. Shields, M.D., Physician Member;

Ronald Simmons, Ph.D., Consumer Member;

Felicia Ann Retland, Consumer Member;

James A. Towns, Esq., Consumer Member;

Raymond K. Tu, M.D., Physician Member; and

Cheryl R. Williams, M.D., Physician Member

The Board staff includes **Mr. James R. Granger, Jr.,** Executive Director, **Ms. Alesia Henry,** **Ms. Lisa Robinson** and **Ms. Antoinette Stokes,** Health Licensing specialists. The Board’s phone number is (202) 724-8800. The fax number is (202) 724-8677.